

Appln No. 10/760,259
Amdt. Dated February 9, 2006
Response to Office Action of November 25, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated November 25, 2005. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments.

Amendments

The description has been amended throughout to address typographical errors and obvious mistakes that have come to light upon review of the specification.

The Claims have been amended to address the antecedent issues identified by the Examiner. Independent Claims 1, 8 and 9 have also been amended to incorporate features previously defined in appended claims. In light of this, appended claims 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, the amendments do not add any new matter.

35 U.S.C. §102 - Claims 1 to 7

Claims 1 to 7 stand rejected for lack of novelty in light of US 2002/0118263 to Watanabe et al. While not explicitly stated in the Official Action, the Applicant assumes that the Examiner intended to reject claims 8 to 12 on the same basis.

Amended claims 1, 8 and 9 define resilient members for biasing the inkjet cartridge against the retainer. As discussed on page 23 of the description, the resilient members on the cradle will cushion any shock loading on the cartridge as it is loaded into the printer. Shock loading the cartridge can de-prime the ink from some of the nozzles in the printhead. Pagewidth printheads are particularly prone to this as the longitudinal axis of the cartridge can be tilted as it is inserted into the cradle. This raises the hydrostatic ink pressure in the lowermost nozzles well above that of the upper nozzles. The additional hydrostatic pressure and the shock loading can combine to force ink from some nozzles, and bleed onto the capping surface.

In contrast, Watanabe teaches an inkjet printer cartridge that is biased against the carriage in which it is mounted by the spring 57 acting between head set lever 25 and the pressure point 12 on the cartridge 3. It does not guard against shock loading of the cartridge upon installation, but as it is a scanning printhead, and not a pagewidth printhead, the risk of de-priming any nozzles is reduced. Furthermore, the Watanabe printer is of the type that printing platen opposite the nozzles provided by the printer. Therefore, the cartridge must be very accurately positioned hard against the reference abutments 53 and 11 in the carriage. Otherwise the printing gap between the nozzles and the media S would vary which would be detrimental to print quality. This is not a concern for the Applicant's cartridge which uses a built-in printing platen on its multi-function maintenance assembly. This keeps the printing gap constant even though the cartridge is biased against the retainer and not the cradle.

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In light of the above, the cited reference does not disclose a printhead with all the elements of independent claims 1, 8 or 9. Therefore, Watanabe fails to anticipate the invention defined by any of claims 1 or 5 to 9.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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